Robert Blass Undertakes a Barytone Part Under Basso Conditions-Mmes. Sembrich and Eames the Stars of the

Occasion-Nahan Franko Conducts. Mozart died many years before last night's performance of his "Le Nozze di Figaro" at the Metropolitan Opera House, so that what was our loss was Mozart's gain. It is impossible to guess how so many persons could have known beforethat the performance was going to be so dull, but they did, and they stayed home and played chess or solitaire for ex-

"Le Nozze di Figaro" has had a hard time at the Metropolitan Opera House. It ought to sparkle like champagne, but usually it resembles champagne which has stood in s glass for half an hour. There was a time when the company boasted a Countess, a Sysanna, a Cherubino and a Figaro who could prattle and rattle and skip the verbal

tight rope most joyously.

But in those days the rôle of the Count Almovice that happy man who was a tenor before he was married and a bass afterward-was in the keeping of a gigantic

afterward—was in the keeping of a gigantic basso who preached off the recitation with the dignity and decorum of an undertaker announcing the privilege of a last look to the friends and relatives of the deceased."

The Countess and the Susanza are still in the company, and a barytone has been found who can sing at the Count. But now blithesome, garrulous, amable, scintillating, caracoling Figuro has become a big basso. He is as blithesome as an anecdotal illustration in a doctrinal sermon. He is as garrulous as the lookout at the cathead, who intones once every half hour the information that the starboard light is burning brightly.

He is as scintillant as a German pun, and he caracoles like a Percheron trying to win

He is as scintillant as a dermain pun, and he caracoles like a Percheron trying to win the blue ribbon from a batch of polo ponies. But—Deo gratias—he sings in tune and he is as amiable as the blessed King William who was the father of his own people and the guardian of all the rest. It is not his fault that he is a basso. He would have been a tenor if he had had his own way, and for second choice a barytone.

Nor is it exactly his fault that he was trained in Germany and that he is therefore saturated to the soul with slow tempo. He has sung so many old men's parts that his legs have acquired an automatism of senility. To be a king and a father in opera is to be a bass. To be old and laden with narrative is to be a bass. How could Robert Blass as Figaro escape the conventions of his vocal estate?

Let one thing be recorded. Shaven of the beards of Hermann, Landg ave of Thuringia, Henry the Fowler. Hunding and Gurnemanz, Mr. Blass disclosed the incontestible fact that he is good looking.

contestible fact that he is good looking. Two things, the bfore, can be recorded of this Figare; his face and his voice were

For the rest it must be said that the opera For the rest it must be said that the opera could not move any more swiftly than Figure... "Si vuol ballare, Signor Contini," says Figure right at the outset, and as he sets the tempo, so goes the dance. Mme. Sembrich was the same adorable Susanna. and Mme. Eames the same lovely Countess, and when they were quit of Figaro they

and Mme. Lames the same lovely Countess, and when they were quit of Figaro they made hearts happy.

Belle Aisen made her debutas Cherubino. This mainger should prove useful. She made a pleasing impression last night and got a genuine encore for her "Voi che sapete." Her voice is fresh and of excellent stadity and she same with a good deal of grace. It has a little more vibrato than samy one requires in this country, but she keeps to the pitch and seems to have intelligence. Her Cherubino was sprightly, but not unconventional in action.

Aft. South was the Count, Mr. Rossi the Barbilo and Mr. Reiss the Barbilo and Mr. Reiss the Barbilo and her acting as the gardener. Nahan Franko conducted the performance, making his first appearance as a wielder of the operatic baton and being the first American to conduct opera in the Metropolitan.

He acquitted himiself with great credit. His beat was clear, he gave all the entrances with care and certainty, and he kept the orchestra to a level of lightness and dainti-

with care and certainty, and he kept the orehestra to a level of lightness and daintiness. His men loyelly supported him. To-day at a P. M. "Parsifal" will be given with Olive Fremstad as Kundry for the first

... NEXT WEEK'S OPERA. "Lucrezia Bergia" to Be Revived, Also "Den Pasquale."

"Lucrezia Borgia" will be revived at the Metropolitan Opera House next Monday to introduce Mme. Marie de Macchi, the Italian dramatic soprano. Donizetti's mera has not been sung here in years. In theicast will be Messrs. Caruso, Scotti, Barr

therenst will be Messrs. Caruso, Scotti, Barr and Rossi, and Edyth Walker.

On Wednesday "Tannhäuser" will be sung by Mmes. Ackté, Fremstad and Alten and Messrs. Knote, Van Rooy, Plançon, Muhmann and Reiss.

On Thursday "Parsifal" will be sung for the flaret time with Mme. Nordica and Messrs. Burgetafler, Van, Rooy, Blass, Journet and Muhmann.

Muhlmann.
"Don Pasquale" will be revived on Friday
with Mms. Sembrich and Messrs. Dippel,
Scotti and Possi. This will be followed
by "Cavaller's Rusticana," with Mmss. de
Macchi and Jacoby and Messrs. Saleza and

Muchann.

Mme. Earnes will be the soloist at the concert on Sunday evening and Mme. Sembrich will sing at the following concert.

TWO DEAD ONES BOB UP.

Gliday Sends Clothes of Woman Who Wasn't His Sister Back to the Morgue.

The Morgue had two romances yesterday. as Morgue romances go. John Gilday of As Morgue romances go. John Gilday of 414 East Twenty-third street went there in the afternoon with a bundle of woman's cassies. They belonged to a corpse he had steatified last week as that of his long lost sister. Mary McLoughlin, and had buried in Calvary Cemetery. Tuesday night the missing sister, hearing roout the fine funeral John had given her, went home. The body he buried was that of a middle aged won an who had been run over by a car on the Bowery on the night of Nov. 23. Gilday was so rejoiced by the return of his sister in the flesh that he told the Morgue attendants that the body of the other woman could remain undisturbed in Calvary.

Later in the day a bundle of clothes arrived from Hoboken. They were the effects of a man drowned in Spuyten Duyvil Creek in May, 1'02, and identified from his belongings and photographs as Thomas Kelly. He had been buried in the potter's field, but his cousin, Francis F. Maloney of 1201 Washington street. Hoboken, who made the identification, had the body disinterred and buried in Hoboken. The real Thomas Kelly discovered himself to his cousin yesterday, alive and well. 414 East Twenty-third street went there in



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DAVID BISPHAM'S RECITAL. 'Four Serious Songs' and "Die Schone

Magellone" by Brahms. David Bispham's series of four song recitals came to an end yesterday afternoon at Mendelssohn Hall. The afternoon was devoted to the presentation of two works of Brahms, which Mr. Bispham has made especially his own. These were the "Four Serious Songs " and " Die Schöne Magellone. It was in the piping month of December, 1898, that Mr. Bispham took train for Boston with the "Four Serious Songs" (which he sang here for the first time in America on Jan. 12, 1897) and Schubert's "Mullerlieder" in his grip. He had heard that the inhabitants of the town over against Harvard University dwelt continuously among the fleecy clouds of metaphysics and the silver stars of fancy.

Therefore he thought that the city would prostrate itself at his feet and glorify him as the evangel of a very precious art. But he was received as one accursed, and bid to visit Tophet with his four "groans" by Brahms and his dreary cycle about a miller whose love doted on green. So he came to commercial New York, and was welcomed

whose love doted on green. So he came to commercial New York, and was welcomed oyfully.

He ought to have known that he was safe here, for on Feb. 19, 1897, he gave the whole of "Die schöne Magellone" for the first time in America, as he believed, though some thought that Heinrich Meyn had once had troubles of his own with it. On that occasion Mr. Bispham was assisted by Marguerite Hall, Marie Engle and Lloyd D'Aubigne. Mr. D'Aubigne sang the song of the minstrel, Miss Engle that of Sulima, Miss Hall those of Magellone and Mr. Bispham those of Peter. Yesterday Mr. Bispham delivered all the men's songs and Miss Hall all the women's.

Possibly the wise men of the east would be better pleased now than they were a few years ago to hear Mr. Bispham and his cycles, but it is hardly likely that they would rejoice greatly over the songs which Brahms wrote for the verses in Tieck's sentimental tale. The time has gone by when grown folk can take such stories seriously, and it is hard to believe in the songs, even when they are sung with the notably beautiful music which Brahms made for them.

These musical lyrics embody one of the finest possible expressions of a lover's transport, and it was well worth while to endure Mr. Bispham's kindly condensation of the foolish story, which he read in an amiable tone, for the sake of knowing just what the composer meant. Mr. Bispham and Miss Hall sang the songs with intelligence and appreciation.

The "Four Serious Songs" made an ex-

and Miss Hall sang the songs with intelligence and appreciation.

The "Four Serious Songs" made an excellent prelude to the "Magellone" group, because they are so different. In the "leck settings the composer was dealing with the rapture of love; in the others he was philosophizing on the approach of death. Besten was not so far wrong in calling these songs "greans"; but there are greans and greans.

grans.

These are rather out of the common, it must be confessed. They will not in the future be classed among the greatest monuments of the genius of Brahms, but they will never be sung without some appreciation of their profound sincerity, their originality of construction and the fidelity of their impressive declamation. Mr. Bispham sang them earnestly yesterday.

Andrew Mack Going to Australia. Rich & Harris, managers of Andrew Mack, have signed a contract by which he is to make a twenty weeks' tour of Aushe is to make a tenty when the state. Mr. Mack closes his present season March 10 in San Francisco. On March 16 he will sail with his company for Sydney, where he will open on April 8 in "The Way to Kenmare," now playing at the Fourteenth Street Theatre.

OAKLEY SIGNS GAS CONTRACTS

THINKS HE HAS MADE GOOD TERMS AFTER LONG HIATUS.

At Any Rate, the City Is Now Bound Until March Next-Companies Have Large Claims for Lighting Done When Monroe Refused to Pay Their Price.

Commissioner Oakley of the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity has signed contracts with the electric lighting and gas companies which illuminate the streets of the city, for lighting the public thoroughfares for one year, the contracts to date from March 16 last. The aggregate amount to be paid under these contracts is estimated at about \$3,000,000, which is more than the Low administration was willing to pay for the city's lighting. Under Mayor Low Commissioners Dougherty and Monroe in turn refused to award contracts to the companies on the ground that the bids were excessive and were apparently the result of collusion. They said, in fact, that there was no competitive bidding because all the companies belonged to the so-called gas trust.

The Board of Estimate authorized the Commissioners to offer the companies contracts on a basis of 60 to 80 per cent. less than the bids. The companies refused the proposition, but they were legally bound to continue lighting the public streets and Comptroller Grout has now something like \$5,000,000 which the companies have refused to accept in payment of their claims pending a settlement between themselves and the city. Mr. Grout has more than once stated that the easiest way out of the difficulty would be for the corporations to sue the city, but they haven't sued.

culty would be for the corporations to sue the city, but they haven't sued.

Commissioner Oakley, in justifying yesterday the action he had taken, said:

"I think I have made very favorable terms for the city. In the bids sent in lest year the gas companies asked for \$17.50 a year for open flame lamps and \$29 for Welsbach lamps. Under the contract I have made the companies have removed every open flame lamp in Manhattan and The Bronx and have put in 22,500 Welsbach lights, and have agreed to charge the city for these lights only \$24.75 a lamp. The open gas lamps were twelve candle power, while the Welsbach are sixty candle power, while the Welsbach are sixty candle power. Reductions were also made for electric lamps, while in the other boroughs where the open lamps are used the charge has been cut from \$17.50 to \$17.25."

Comptroller Grout said last night that while he had not yet certified the contracts he expected that he would have to do so as the Commissioner had undoubtedly the right to make them. The point which is interesting Mr. Grout is whether or not the priese accepted by Mr. Oakley must form the basis upon which the back claims of the company must be paid.

"But that is a matter I do not care to discuss now," the Comptroller said, "especially as I am preparing a report on the subject for the Board of Estimate. I have no doubt, however, that a satisfactory settlement will be reached."

James K. Hackett has postponed his opening here in "The Fortunes of the King" at the Lyric from Monday till Tuesday evening, so as not to conflict with Annie Russell's new play.

Russell's new play.

Louis Mann gave a well attended professional matinée of "The Second Fiddle" yesterday at the Criterion.

Dec. 17 is to be souvenir night at the Savoy. It will be the 125th performance of "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch." Copies of the story from which the play was made will be the souvenirs.

The 100th performance of "The Duke of Killicrankie." in which John Drew has met with so much success, was given last night at the mpire Theatre. This promises to be one of the longest runs Mr. Drew has

met with so much success, was given last night at the impire Theatre. This promises to be one of the longest runs Mr. Drew has ever pia, ed in New York.

Rose Coghian began rehearsals for a revival of "Diplomacy" yesterday. Miss Coghian will be seen in her familiar impersonation of Countess Zucka. The role of Henry Beauclerc, in which the late Charles Coghian appeared, will be filled by Howard Kyle, who starred in "Rosemary" last season. They will be seen here next spring

The New York Symphony Orchestra. The second concert of the New York Symphony Orchestra will be given at Carnegie Hall on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 4, at 3 o'clock. The postponement from Nov. 20 was decided on by the directors as a tribute was decided on by the directors as a tribute to the memory of Mrs. Leopold Damrosch, widow of the founder of the symphony society and the oratorio society, who died on Nov. 19. The programme intended for Nov. 20 will be given without change on Dec. 4, and will consist of the following works: Tschalkowsky's "Tempest" and Byron's "Manfred," with the incidental music of Robert Schumann, Mr. David Bispham reading the text. Bispham reading the text.

Paderewski on His Way Here. Ignace Paderewski has sailed from New Zealand for San Francisco and will arrive there in about two weeks. His first concert there will take place on Dec. 18. Paderew-aki's New York concerts will begin in

PUBLICATIONS.

PUBLICATIONS.

ONE OF THOSE SPONTANEOUSLY FUNNY STORIES WHICH ONLY A EORN HUMOR-IST COULD WRITE." - New York Tribune.

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NEW YORKER FOR BISHOP. W. T. Manning to Preside Over Harrisburg Diocese.

LANCASTER, Pa., Nov. 30 .- The Episcopal Church convention, which met here to-day and organized a new Bishopric of Harris-burg, this evening elected William T. Manning, vicar of St. Agnes Chapel, Trinity parish, New York city, as Bishop on the

The Rev. William T. Manning will be one of the youngest, if not the youngest, of the Prosestant Episcopal Bishops. He is only 38, having been born in Northampton. England, in 1886. At 20 he came to this country with his parents and entered the University of the South at Sewanee, Tenn. He finished his theological course there in addition to his general university training. His first cnurch was in Redlands, Cal. Soon afterward he was called back to the University of the South to fill the chair of dogmatic theology. Two years later he was made rector of St. John's Church.

Lansdowne, Pa. In 1898 he became rector of Christ Church, Nashville, Tenn. There he remained until called to St. Agnes's Chapel in this city, March 22, 1903. At St. Agnes's he succeeded the Rev. Charles T. Olmstead, who resigned after his election as Coadjutor Bishop of Central New York. Dr. Manning is married and has two children. As a preacher he has an enviable reputation, and his personality is pleasing. St. Agnes's Chapel, Trinity parish, of which he has been the head for nearly two years, is the largest and finest in the parish and is considered the best equipped Episcopal Church property in the city. It is in West Ninety-first street, between Amsterdam and Columbus avenues, and occupies half a block, extending back to Ninety-second street. There are nearly

Ninety-second street. There are nearly 2,000 communicants.

Information reached Dr. Manning last night that he had been elected Bishop of the new Harrisburg diocese, but in the absence of official notification he did not care to discuss the matter of his acceptance. care to discuss the matter of his acceptance. He expects an immediate notification. The new see was created by dividing the Bishopric of Central Pennsylvania.

PUBLICATIONS.

Putnams Publish To-day

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To-day at 5 P. M.—PARSIFAL. Fremsiad:
Burgstaller, Van Rooy, Journet, Goritz, Muhlmann.
Conductor, Hertz.
Fri. Evg., Dec. 2, at 8—LA GIOCONDA. Nordica,
Homer. Walker, Caruso, Giraldoni, Plancon, Begue.
Conductor, Vigna.
Sat. Mat., Dec. 8 at 1:30—DIE MEISTERSINGER.
Alno Ackte, Homer, Heinrich Knote (debut), Van
Rooy, Blass, Goritz, Muhlmann, Rebs. Cond. Hertz.
Sat. Evg., Dec. 3, at 8:15 (pop. prices)—LA TRAVIATA. Sembrich, Bauermeister: Dippei, Scottl,
Bars, Dufriche, Begue. Conductor, Vigna.
Sun. Evc., Dec. 3, at 8:15 (pop. prices)—LA TRAVIATA. Sembrich, Bauermeister: Dippei, Scottl,
Bars, Dufriche, Begue. Conductor, Vigna.
Sun. Evc., Dec. 4, at 8:50 (popular prices)
GRAND SUNDAY NIGHT CONCERT
Soloists—EMMA EAMES, JACOBY; PLANCON,
GORITZ. Entire Metropolitan Opera Chorus and
Orchestra. Conductor, Mr. Franko.
Mon. Evg., Dec. 5, at 8—LUCREZIA BORGIA.
De Maochi (debut), Walker; Caruso, Scotti. Bars,
Rossi. Conductor, Vigna.
Wed. Evg., Dec. 5, at 8—TANNHAEUSER.
Ackte, Fremstad, Alten; Knote, Van Rooy, Plancon. Muhlmann, Rebs. Conductor, Hertz.
Thurs, Dec. 8, at 5 P. M.—PARSIFAL Nordica.
Burgstaller, Van Rooy, Blass, Journet, Muhlmann.
Conductor, Hertz.
Other PARSIFAL Performances: Evenings, Thursdays, Dec. 15, 22 Only 2 mathees, Mondays
Dec. 28 (Xmas), Jan. 2 JAsew Year).
Fri. Evg., Dec. 9, at 7:45—Double Bill: CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA. De Macchi, Jacoby, Bauermeister; Saleza, Munlmann.—DON PASQU'ALE.
Sembrich: Dippel, Scottl, Rossi. Cond. Vigna.
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TEGUTHAM LADIES MAT. TO-DAY, Bowery Burlesquest, Sunday - Aft & Evg. | concernd Wallack's B'was Sho-Gun

DEWEY LADIES MAT. TO BAY

Garden, 27& Mad. Av. Ev. 820. Mat. Wed. 4 S. Geo. Ade's New Amer. COLLEGE WIDOW 2

BROAD WAY THEATRE, 41 St. B'way Fve vit FRITZI SCHEFF FROLE B'way & 60th, Mat. Dall., 25c.
FRID NIBLO, STALEY & BIRBUCK,
BURKE, LA RUE & INKRY BURKS.

PROCTOR'S "BIG FOUR" STH AVE. "Friends," May Isabel Fisk & Vaud 23D ST. Girl With the Auburn Hair Big Show 12STH ST. An Enemy to the King. & Vaud 5STH ST. Toozoonin Arabs. Big Vaudeslife Seeing NewYork Automobiles

PASTOR'S

MENDELSSOHN | Friday Eve. De-**HEINRICH MEYN** CARNEGIE HALL

Victoria, 42d St. 7th Av. Living Stat Eve. 25, 50, 7ac. \$1.00. Germanal, Mats. Daily, 25A 50c. Watermeion

BELASCO THEATRE BY AN AMERICAN THE MUSIC MASTER Lew Fields' Theatre, 42d St. H. WALLES Ir Happened in Nordland

BIJOU Both St. Mat. Saturda. MAY IRWIN MRS. BLACK IS BACK. WEBER MUSIC B'way & Mats. The Ash WEBER & ZIEGFELD COMPANY

AMERICAN PAYID HIGGINS MA Senday Night-TED MARKS BIG CON Next Week-"More To Be Pitled Than Sec STAR Lex. Av., 107th. MAT. SATURI GRAND HOPPER WANGER GIRL ANDREW MACK | TO KENMARE | Song

West End Billy B. Van Boy ... 3 DAV., 31st Mat. To day. Secret of the Subwat. Next week. A Girl of the Sticele

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